

CLAIMS

1. A method for providing an animated audio message, the method comprising:
receiving an audio-message indication, related to an audio message, via a first wireless

5 communication;

receiving an image indication, related to an image, via a second wireless
communication;

associating the image with the audio message; and

animating the image in accordance with the audio message to produce the animated

10 audio message.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the image is a stored image and the image
indication identifies the stored image.

15 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

storing the animated audio message; and

sending retrieval information toward a recipient for retrieving the animated audio
message, the recipient being wirelessly identified.

20 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the animated audio message is stored in
association with a packet-switched-network address.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the address is a web address.

25 6. The method of claim 4 wherein the retrieval information includes the address.

7. The method of claim 3 wherein the retrieval information is in a format indicated wirelessly.

5 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the format is e-mail.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the format is mobile-terminated short message service, and the retrieval information is sent to the recipient via a short message center.

10 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving the audio message from a voice-mail system.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the audio message is stored in the voice-mail system and the audio-message indication identifies the audio message stored in the voice-mail system.

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12. The method of claim 1 wherein first wireless communication occurs before the second wireless communication.

20 13. The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second wireless communications are portions of the same communication.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the audio-message indication includes the audio message.

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15. The method of claim 1 wherein the audio-message indication includes text, the method further comprising converting the text into the audio message.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the audio-message indication includes
5 sufficient information to identify the audio message.

17. A method for providing an animated audio message as selected in a wireless communication, the method comprising:

receiving indicia of an animated audio message and a recipient, the animated audio
10 message including an image portion that changes in accordance with an audio portion, at least a portion of the indicia being received through a wireless communication; and

sending toward the recipient message information sufficient for the recipient to access the animated audio message for viewing and listening by the recipient.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the message information includes an address
15 of a packet-switched network site.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the address is a universal resource location and the network site is a web page.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein the indicia include the audio portion and the receiving includes receiving the audio portion from a voice-mail system.

21. The method of claim 17 wherein the indicia include an image indication of
25 which of a plurality of stored images to use as the image portion of the message, the image

indication being received through the wireless communication.

22. The method of claim 21 further comprising associating the audio portion with the image portion and animating the image portion in accordance with the audio portion.

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23. A computer program product including computer-executable instructions for causing a computer to:

receive an audio-message indication, related to an audio message, via a first wireless communication;

10 receive an image indication, related to an image, via a second wireless communication;

associate the image with the audio message; and

animate the image in accordance with the audio message to produce an animated audio message.

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24. The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the image is a stored image and the image indication identifies the stored image.

25. The computer program product of claim 23 further comprising instructions for causing the computer to:

store the animated audio message;

receive a recipient indication wirelessly, the recipient indication being indicative of an intended recipient of the animated audio message; and

25 send retrieval information toward the intended recipient for retrieving the animated audio message.

26. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the animated audio message is stored in association with a packet-switched-network address.

5 27. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the address is a web address, the computer program product further comprising instructions for causing the computer to provide a web page providing access to the animated audio message.

10 28. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the retrieval information includes the address.

15 29. The computer program product of claim 25 further comprising instructions for causing the computer to wirelessly receive a format indication indicative of a format of the retrieval information, and wherein the instructions for causing the computer to send the retrieval information cause the computer to send the retrieval information in the indicated format.

30. The computer program product of claim 29 wherein the format is e-mail.

20 31. The computer program product of claim 29 wherein the format is mobile-terminated short message service, and the instructions for causing the computer to send the retrieval information cause the computer to send the retrieval information toward the intended recipient via a short message center.

25 32. The computer program product of claim 23 wherein first wireless

communication occurs before the second wireless communication.

33. The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the first and second wireless communications are portions of the same communication.

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34. The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the audio-message indication includes the audio message.

35. The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the audio-message indication includes text, the computer program product further comprising instructions for causing the computer to convert the text into the audio message.

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36. The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the audio-message indication includes sufficient information to identify the audio message.

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37. A system for providing animated audio messages, the system comprising:
a wireless interface configured to receive wireless communications from a wireless communications device, the wireless communications providing or identifying an audio message and providing or identifying an image;
an animator coupled to the wireless interface and configured to animate the image in accordance with the audio message to form an animated audio message;
an animation interface coupled to the animator and configured to transfer the animated audio message from the animator toward a desired destination.

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38. The system of claim 37 wherein the animation interface is configured to

transfer the animated audio message toward the desired destination in a wireless communication.

39. The system of claim 37 further comprising an audio format engine configured
5 to receive an audio message and convert a format of the received audio message to a desired audio message format if appropriate.

40. The system of claim 39 further comprising an audio storage device configured
to store the audio message in the desired audio message format.

10 41. The system of claim 40 further comprising an image engine configured to receive images and convert the images as appropriate into a desired image format.

42. The system of claim 41 further comprising an image storage device coupled to
15 image engine and configured to store the image in the desired image format.

43. The system of claim 42 wherein the wireless communications identify the
audio message and the image, and wherein the animator is coupled to the audio storage device
and the image storage device and is configured to retrieve the audio message and the image
20 from the storage devices in accordance with the wireless communications.

44. The system of claim 37 wherein the animation interface comprises a streaming
server configured to transfer the animated audio message toward the desired destination as a
streaming file.

45. The system of claim 44 wherein the animation interface further comprises a web server configured to provide access to the animated audio message via a web page related to the animated audio message.

5 46. The system of claim 45 further comprising a Mobile-Terminated Short Message System (MT-SMS) interface coupled to the wireless interface and configured to transmit an MT-SMS-format message toward the desired recipient, the MT-SMS-format message including a web address of the web page provided by the web server related to the animated audio message.

10 47. The system of claim 45 further comprising an e-mail interface coupled to the wireless interface and configured to transmit an e-mail message toward the desired recipient, the e-mail message including a web address of the web page provided by the web server related to the animated audio message.

15 48. The system of claim 37 further comprising a voice-mail interface coupled to the wireless interface and configured to receive the audio message.